




# JUST LISTEN

Commemorating  
all those lost to gun violence  
and seeking to inspire unity and peace.



**Inspire** a choir  
for unity

Friday, November 17, 2017 | 7:30 P.M.  
James Memorial Chapel  
Union Theological Seminary



In partnership with **Sandy Hook  
PROMISE**  
[sandyhookpromise.org](http://sandyhookpromise.org)

## Welcome

It is with great joy that we welcome you to Inspire's inaugural concert. Given the nature of the program, perhaps joy is the wrong word to use. After all, how can joy persist in the wake of the senseless loss that results from gun violence? Nevertheless, to us your presence here tonight is a testament to the insistence of hope in the face of tremendous sorrow and an expression of the willingness to engage in efforts aimed at creating a brighter future. In this way, we find joy in the opportunity to share our voices with you as we amplify the vital work of Sandy Hook Promise.

Inspire seeks to empower, inform, and enrich communities. Our hope is to foster an enduring spirit of community engagement uplifted through song; a goal that is impossible without generous supporters such as you. Thank you for becoming part of this vision.

## About the Program

Our concert tonight takes its name from a poem, read in parts throughout the program, which references the school shooting at Sandy Hook, the shooting of Trayvon Martin, and the theater shooting in Aurora, Colorado. Sadly, each of these tragedies—unique though they are in their impact on those directly affected—are part of an epidemic of gun violence in the United States. The daily death toll is staggering. We are so beleaguered with news of tragedy after tragedy that it can be overwhelming. We here have all experienced these events differently, yet we come together tonight to unite our spirits in grief, in pain, and in mourning—and also in search of comfort, peace, and even hope.

The program seeks to guide us—singers and listeners together—through the spectrum of emotions. One of our goals is to recontextualize familiar music and words. As such, this diverse program includes spirituals, a song of unrequited love, texts sacred and secular, ancient and modern. Each piece carries its own meaning, but we too bring our own meanings to the hearing, and, together, these pieces take on new purpose as part of a larger tapestry woven of those collective messages, interpretations, and interactions.

Of special note, this concert features the world premiere of three arrangements by members of Inspire. Two are reimaginings of old standards; the third is an arrangement of a song by the Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Senior Minister Emeritus at The Riverside Church (across the street). Rev. Forbes began writing "Sound out of the Ground" in response to the tragedy at Sandy Hook and continued to add verses in response to other incidents of gun violence. He set his poem to an original melody, and we are honored to share it in this choral arrangement.

The late Pierre Boulez said, "One should essentially see concerts as a means of communication, as animated contact between participants, be they listeners or creators." In that spirit, we invite you to light a candle in memory of anyone lost to gun violence during the singing of "Da Pacem Domine." And at the end of "Amazing Grace," we encourage you to join your voices with ours for the final three verses in communal hope that "grace will lead us home."

## Inaugural Concert

# ***DON'T SHOOT, JUST LISTEN***

*Please silence all electronic devices  
and hold applause until the program concludes.*

### I. "26 will never sing"

Motherless Child arr. Craig Hella Johnson (b. 1962)  
Tuesday Rupp, Rebecca Luttio, Carrie Quarquesso, *soloists*

Ov'é Lass', Il Bel Viso? Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)

Sound out of the Ground James Forbes (b. 1935)  
arr. Ari Messenger\* (b. 1993)  
Zana Thaqi, *mezzo soprano*

### II. "1 will never sing"

Nunc Dimittis Pawel Łukaszewski (b. 1968)

Da Pacem Domine Arvo Pärt (b. 1935)  
*All are invited to light a candle in memory of those lost to gun violence.*

Only in Sleep Ēriks Ešenvalds (b. 1977)  
Christina Kershaw, *soprano*

### III. "12 will never sing"

In Remembrance Eleanor Daley (b. 1955)

There Will Be Rest Frank Ticheli (b. 1958)

### IV. "Grace will lead us home."

Down in the River to Pray arr. Jon Pohlmann\* (b. 1951)  
Miguel Saucedo, *tenor*

Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal arr. Alice Parker (b. 1925)

Amazing Grace arr. Unknown & Ryan Buchanan\* (b. 1992)

*Please join in singing when invited:*

Yea, when this flesh  
and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace

When we've been there  
ten thousand years  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

Amazing grace!  
How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

*\*member of Inspire*

*All are welcome to a reception following the concert.*

## I. "26 will never sing"

### Motherless Child

African-American Spiritual

Sometimes I feel like a motherless child—  
a long way from home.

Sometimes I feel like I got no friends—  
a long way from home.

Sometimes I feel like I'm almost home—  
a long way from home.

### Ov'è Lass', Il Bel Viso?

Henricus Schafften

Where, alas, is the beautiful face? Behold, it hides.  
Woe is me, where is my sun?  
Alas, what veil drapes itself and renders the heavens dark?  
Woe is me, that I call and see it; it does not respond.  
Oh, if your sails have auspicious winds,  
My dearest sweet, and if you change your hair and features late,  
If the Lord of Delos hides grace and valor in your beautiful bosom,  
Hear my sighs and give them place to turn unjust disdain into love,  
And may your pity conquer hardships.  
See how I burn and how I am consumed by fire;  
What better reason, what greater sign  
Than I, a temple of faithful life and love!

### Sound out of the Ground

James Forbes

Cain murdered and buried his brother.  
No one knew Abel's blood had been shed.  
Out of the ground came a mournful sound:  
Abel's blood crying out in his stead.

Our precious young children of Newtown  
Asked us all for this one sacrifice.  
"Grieve our demise with eyes on the prize.  
Save the children; our blood paid the price."

#### *Refrain:*

What is that sound coming out of the ground?  
It's the blood of our fallen children.  
What is their crying trying to say?  
We've got to stop this senseless killing.

Young brothers died asking this question:  
"Must we fall so that you can feel tall?"  
When we can see we're one family,  
Life will be so much better for all.

The blood in our veins should be crying  
With the blood that's still crying today.  
Rise above fear, speak out loud and clear!  
For our children, put weapons away!

## II. "1 will never sing"

### Nunc Dimittis

Song of Simeon

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace  
According to thy word.  
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,  
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

### Da Pacem Domine

7<sup>th</sup>-century hymn

Give peace, O Lord, in our time.  
For there is none other  
Who would fight for us  
If not you, our God.

*All are invited to light a candle in memory of those lost to gun violence.*

### Only in Sleep

Sara Teasdale

Only in sleep I see their faces,  
Children I played with when I was a child.  
Louise comes back with her brown hair braided,  
Annie with ringlets warm and wild.  
  
Only in sleep Time is forgotten—  
What may have come to them, who can know?  
Yet we played last night as long ago,  
And the dollhouse stood at the turn of the stair.  
  
The years had not sharpened their smooth round faces,  
I met their eyes and found them mild—  
Do they, too, dream of me, I wonder,  
And for them am I too a child?

## III. "12 will never sing"

### In Remembrance

Mary Elizabeth Frye

Do not stand at my grave and weep.  
I am not there, I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the diamond glint on snow.  
I am the sunlight-ripened grain,  
I am the gentle morning rain.  
And when you wake in the morning's hush,  
I am the sweet uplifting rush of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft stars that shine at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
I am not there, I did not die.

### There Will Be Rest

Sara Teasdale

There will be rest, and sure stars shining  
Over the rooftops crowned with snow.  
A reign of rest, serene forgetting,  
The music of stillness, holy and low.  
I will make this world of my devising  
Out of a dream in my lonely mind.  
I shall find the crystal of peace; and above me  
Stars I shall find.

#### IV. "Grace will lead us home"

##### Down in the River to Pray

Traditional

As I went down to the river to pray,  
Studying about that good old way,  
And who shall wear the robe and crown,  
Good Lord, show me the way.

Oh, sisters...  
Oh, brothers...  
Oh, fathers...  
Oh, mothers...  
Oh, sinners...  
...let's go down in the river to pray.

##### Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal

attr. F. R. Warren

Hark, I hear the harps eternal ringing on the farther shore,  
As I near those swollen waters with their deep and solemn roar.  
Hallelujah! Praise the Lamb. Glory to the great I Am.

And my soul though stained with sorrow, fading as the light of day,  
Passes swiftly o'er those waters to the city far away.  
Hallelujah! Praise the Lamb. Glory to the great I Am.

Souls have crossed before me saintly to that land of perfect rest,  
And I hear them singing faintly in the mansions of the blest.  
Hallelujah! Praise the Lamb. Glory to the great I Am.

##### Amazing Grace

John Newton

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And Grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come.  
'Twas grace that brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

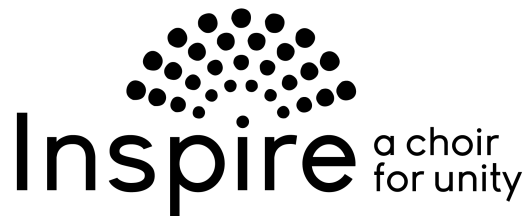
The Lord has promised good to me.  
His word my hope secures.  
It will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

*Please join in the final verses:*

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.



### Artists

Joshua Alexander	Tegan Miller
Kate Bullock	Caroline Pohlmann
Ryan Buchanan	Jon Pohlmann
Erin Halpin	Carrie Quarquesso
Julia Hamilton	Rebecca Luttio
Justin Jalea	Tuesday Rupp
Ben Keiper	Miguel Saucedo
Christina Kershaw	Michael Sauter
Eleanor Killiam	James Knox Sutterfield
Bennet Mahler	Zana Thaqi
Claire Manganiello	Lindsey Weishaus
Tom Marks	Abaigh Wheatley
Ari Messenger	

with:

David Rodgers, *actor*

Alana Murphy, *piano*

### Board of Directors

Katherine Austin-Evelyn, Chair

Tuesday Rupp, Singer Liaison & Secretary

Megan Chartrand, Executive Director & Treasurer

Justin Jalea, Artistic Director

Erin Halpin, Associate Conductor

James Knox Sutterfield, Associate Artistic Director

Claire Manganiello & Erin Halpin, Digital Design

Eleanor Killiam, Artist Coordinator

Lindsey Weishaus, Public Relations

Tegan Miller, Wardrobe Coordinator

Susan Pohlmann, Reception Coordinator

Julia Hamilton & Ryan Buchanan, Education Team

In partnership with:



and

**Union Theological Seminary**

**Inspire** is a New York City-based chamber choir dedicated to cultivating compassion and action for diverse social issues through the power of song. In partnership with organizations seeking positive social change, we encourage individual and collective action on socially pressing issues. We seek to inspire a spirit of unity among our artists, audiences, and wider community.

Inspire seeks to promote unity through the power of song. We are dedicated to fostering a more just society by championing the work of our community partners, encouraging audience engagement, and cultivating impassioned and excellent artistry.

**Sandy Hook Promise** is a national non-profit organization founded and led by several family members whose loved ones were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012.

Based in Newtown, Connecticut, their intent is to honor all victims of gun violence by turning their tragedy into a moment of transformation by providing programs and practices that protect children and prevent the senseless, tragic loss of life. More information at [www.sandyhookpromise.org](http://www.sandyhookpromise.org).

### Special Thanks

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Ben Smith, videographer  
Susan Pohlmann  
Amber Salladin

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Megan Chartrand  
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Jeffrey Douma

Merrill Eisenberg  
Rosemary Forrest  
Marta Fudakowska  
Erin Halpin  
John Halpin  
Jennifer Hobbs  
Justin Jalea  
Robert Labaree  
Christine Landry

Marie-Josée Lapierre  
Kristi Roosmaa Tootell  
Jackie Sauter  
Erin Smith  
James Knox Sutterfield  
Timothy Takach  
Ann Mac Vicar  
Nathaniel Widelitz

### Upcoming Concerts

#### **Earth, Teach Me**

March 16, 2018, 7:30 PM  
Society for Ethical Culture  
2 W 64<sup>th</sup> Street

#### **Voice Dance**

June 8, 2018, 7:30 PM  
The Center at West Park  
165 W 86<sup>th</sup> Street

